

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 1897.-COPYRIGHT, 1897, BY THE SUN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION.

GREECE EAGER FOR WAR. FIERY OUTBURSTS OF PATRIOTISM AGAINST THE TURK.

Stirring Scenes on the Greco-Turkish Prontter in Thesanly-Genuineness of the Martini Spirit-The Greek Troops-A Description of a Battle Between Cretans and Moslem

London, March 19 .- Although war has not been declared in the East, the newspapers of England and the Continent are already filled with "war correspondence." The letters and telegrams "from the front" bristle with all the veruscular of war. The scenes which they describe on the Greco-Turkish frontier in Thessaly are of the sort which Europe has not read about since Sedan. The story is beginning to stir the sluggish blood of Europe, quite apart from the interest and direct concern that every-body now feels in the great crisis, which we are told persistently by the rulers of all the powers involves the peace of almost the whole world. I. for one, do not accept this gloomy assumption that war between Greece and Turkey means War Universal and almost the doom of Christendom. Nevertheless, the splendid incarnation of the spirit of war which the Greek nation is now displaying is assuredly the most dramatic, the most inspiring spectacle the world has seen in this generation. It is not going to disappear without leaving its mark upon the history of

I propose to give, in place of any dry analysis of the political features of the situation which I might make, a few sketches of the physical and human nature elements in the Grecian and Cretan crisis, taken from the great mass of mat-ter which has been put before the English public this week. First, then, as to the Greeks themselves. The impression prevails, I believe, that the modern Greek is more phlegmatic than most of the Eastern races. Rend, then, this extract from Henry Norman's description of a twenty four hours' voyage from the Pireus to Volo en route to the frontier on a little steamer of 600 tons, which carried no fewer than 900 recruits: "This is the most inflammable human ma-

terial that has ever come within my range. I have never smoked a cigarette while sitting on the rim of an open barrel of powder, but if I had my feelings would have been those with which I looked all the afternoon on this uniformed and ununiformed crowd of Greek soldiers bound for the edge of the Turkish empire. At any moment a spark would have set it ablaze, and nothing in the world could have stopped it. At one time a specially stirring song so excited the cavalrymen that they seized their rifles and began firing in the air. I bobbed this way and that as the muzzles of the guns pointed in my direction while their owners jammed cartridges into the breech, and it was easy to see from the gentle, persuasive manner in which the sergeauts went for a man and, laying a hand on his shoulder, argued with him, that they well knew how vain would be a more imperative form of control.

"At another moment I thought the explosion

had come. A sudden whirlpool formed in the crowd, savage shouts broke from angry breasts, half a dozen men were at each others' throats Instantly the two combatant officers leaped from the bridge and dashed reckless through the packed mass to the scene. They only just got there in time, for as their braided caps reached the vortex of the human macIstrom a huge naked cavalry sabre was flashing high in the air. They sprang upon the chief offender and held him down while they soundly rated him, but it was several minute Given these flery natures, pent up in these splendid bodies, boiling with patriotism, loathing the Turk, determined this time to fight the traditional enemy, convinced beforehand that it will be treachery on the part of their rulers to prevent them, and the closeness of the respective outposts on the frontier as it has been described to me, and no prophet is needed to foretell a certain explosion, impossible to suppress if the powers fail much longer to recognize the truth about Greek national feeling while wasting time in denouncing the bluster of Athens. As I telegraphed you two days ago, the Greek Government can and will control the volcano for a little while longer, but it must be a very little while. I have glanced into the crater of that

There is no need to add to the evidence of the enuineness of the martial spirit among the Greeks. The testimony comes alike from those who sympathize with them in their enthusiasm and those who do not. Thus the correspondent of the Daily Mail, which severely condemns the Greek policy, writes from near the frontier in

"I do not desire to be an alarmist, but it is but right that the situation here should be known. The further I journey the stronger grows my personal conviction that Greece will fight, and perhaps win. The enthusiasm is extraordinary Uniformed volunteers with black slouched

hats as a distinguishing headplece, and irregulars-sturdy shepherds as a rule, with wellfilled banderoles and new Gras rides, which they toy with lovingly-are all hurrying to the

My hotel proprietor in Larissa said to me in Italian, 'When it is necessary I shall go to the front myself, and my young son with me,' point-The very barber in Trikhala, on hearing, during his tonsorial operations on my head, that I was off to the front, sent out for glasses, filled them with generous liquor, and drank with me to the health of England and Greece. I relate these small incidents as a proof of my statement that the Greeks are not bluffing, but are in grim

Turning now to the actual military situation on the frontier in Thessaly, there is much that is interesting and significant. The Greek head quarters are at Larissa, which is thus described by the Daily Telegraph correspondent:

"Larissa preserves many aspects of a Mussul-man town, such as minarets, mosques, mudwalled houses, the latter having very low-arched doorways and overhanging floors, like those seen in Cairo and other Oriental towns. These, how ever, afford almost the only trace of Orientalism, for the air is keen and bracing and the streets are througed with soldiers, of whom 40,000 are here, infantry, artillery, and cavalry. The extensive barracks are full of troops, and the town also, though large, is fairly filled with men in uniform. It is a sight to see the soldiers thronging the rude antique cafés, wine shops, and restaurants, eating, drinking, smoking, chatting, and singing war songs. Many restaurants have quaint entresols, or open galleries indoors, whereon groups of privates gather round tables, making merry, though they risk a tumble of a dozen feet to the floor. With its Orientalism and dirt I should have said that you can also see in Larissa peasants, men and women, wearing the belated dress of Eastern Mohammedanism The majority of the mosques are fallen into deby, their Byzantine columns being broken and their orante domes cracked. The tawdry minarets alone keep most of their grace; but crows and vultures now replace the former muezzins

and Turkish worshippers. "Larissa, although an important town, is without strategic works or means of defence, such as one accustomed to European frontier towns would expect to find near the head of a plain. Like Sterling, it might have been made a warder to the wild highlands, which rise less than a dozen milesaway. Here is a panorama asgrand as any of those displayed by the Alps, Andes, or Himalayas. Now winter keeps his sway upon the mountains running and winding northward, and to the east is the tawny Pinios, that finds the Algean Sea under the base of Olympus. Around is an amphitheatre of hills, the frontiers of Greece and Turkey, every lower peak capped with small military posts, block houses, and forts. substantially built of stone, good enough against

rifle fire. It would be alow, difficult work to get artillery brought to bear upon such places. On the right is huge Olympus, capped and cloaked in snow. Away westward are the Pindus Mountains, one glittering glacier reaching the horison on the western side. Turnavos also, nearer than the rest of the range, has much of its 5,000 odd

eet blanketed in snow. "Recent rains have made the roads and tracks neavy and muddy throughout Thessaly. Meanwhile, the Greek preparations go forward, and the population at the front shows great enthusiasm for war, the same as at Athens and other places far removed from the possible sphere of operations. There is also a heavy concentration of troops at Triccala and Kalabaka. Along this side of the frontier all is as yet quiet, and strangers can go anywhere as safely almost as in London."

Describing the Greek troops, the same cor respondent says:

"For all their occasional lounging, the Greek roops, regulars, reservists, and volunteers dike, exhibit surprising spirit, obedience, and liscipline at the front. Compared to the same classes of men in Athens, at bugle calls to drill or barracks they respond with exemplary alacti-ty. I have seen 20,000 men at the first recall, sounded at 8 o'clock in the evening, disappear from the streets, cafés, and wine shops, and al be within their own quarters in five minutes. Certainly within ten minutes the public places were all deserted, and given over to the quiet humdrum life of ordinary towns olk. Still more noticeable to a Briton like my self was the fact that although wine, cognac mastik, and other intoxicants are cheap and good, I have not, in a week's sojourn among over a hundred thousand soldiers, seen one drunken man. The reveille is not so early here as at Aldershot. It is sounded at 6 A. M.—time

enough for the cold light of morning There is evidence also that the Greeks have fully anticipated and prepared for the present emergency. Another Tolegraph correspondent wired yesterday:

"I crossed the main stream, Salambria or Penios, to the north of Koutzochero. Near there a wood trestle bridge was swept away by last year's floods. Soldiers and engineers have con structed a temporary crossing pontoon bridge The ground has been graded so as to make an excellent approach to that military bridge, which consists of twelve pontoons. The whole work is admirably planned and laid. The boats are well anchored; the bridge is strong, capable of supporting the crossing of heavy artillery.

"Indeed, the really superior condition of the Greek frontier roads surprised me. Work has evidently been done upon them quite recently At the present moment all of them afford excellent and rapid means of communication along their front for men, wagons, and artillery.
"From a military point of view the Greeks are

living up to date. They have nearly every little outpost connected by telegraph wires with their main system and chief headquarters in Larissa, and elsewhere they have fitted up electric search lights. Apparently they have seriously contem plated being more than a match for the Turks, even if fighting them single-handed.

"Beyond Koutzochero and Koutra, at no great distance, just across the frontier, I saw Turkish troops encamped in considerable strength. Probably they had not less than three battalions at the former and one at the latter place. The Turks had good tents, and had thrown up stout lines of earth and stone work. Upon the mountain tops and slopes it must be very cold at night, and the men on both sides must suffer much." Telegraphing later from Melakos, he writes:

"I am here at last among the spurs of the Pin dus, on the mountain of Zykos. There is abundant evidence of the nearness of war. This is a wild country of towering snow-clad heights. Beyoud me is Metsova, where the Turks are reported to be in considerable force-silent as yet, but watchful. Here the natives are all under arms; the peasants and shepherds, clad in shaggy mantles and wooden leggings, are being vigorously exercised in marching and rifle drill. They will surely make serviceable troops. Beside them here are regulars, mostly infantry and chasseurs, for the district from Kalabaka onward is practically impassable to vehicles. It is fit only for mules and horses, saddle and pack. The Government is pushing troops ahead. At present an army corps is echeloned between Triccals and this portion of the frontier."

None of the correspondents goes into any details with regard to the frontier defences or disposal of either Greek or Turkish forces, because they are all under pledge to withhold such information. It is stated in general terms, how ever, that the Greeks and Turks are facing each other in about equal numbers, and that the Turkish troops are very badly equipped, while the Greeks have everything really needful.

There is another corps of war correspondents in Crete, and the story they have to tell is bloodier, more desperate, and more gloomy than that which comes from the Greek frontier. Thus a writer for the Daily Telegraph under date of the

Yesterday was Sunday, and it was sanctified in Canca by a battle—I should, perhaps, say by numerous battles throughout all Crete: but as I saw only one, and it was fairly typical, I leave the others to be described by eyewitnesses. Its origin was simple enough. At a place called Malaxa, on an eminence about an hour's march from Canes, the Mohammedans occupied a building known as a blockhouse, the Christians were less elaborately encamped at various points around them. The latter, for want of artillery, could themselves with firing at every turbaned head that moved beyond the sheltering precincts of the building. The situation had not changed materially for weeks; but the provisions had. They were well nigh exhausted, and the Moslems were at their wits' end to keep body and soul together. They are accustomed to live on little, but they have not yet mastered the art of living on nothing at all. If they could only have effected a sortie and foraged around, they might have replenished their empty storehouse; but the difficulty was that the ubiquitous enemy was invisible and his presence inferred only

from the destruction he dealt around. "Whatever faults the Cretans may have, they are brave and hardy, Christians and Moslem alike. They support life on anything, or almost nothing, for an indefinite time, and, when the worst comes to the worst, die hard. They have more lives than the proverbial cat, and their recuperative forces seem inexhaustible. A few days ago one of them was shot through the right lung, and the doctor declared that five or six hours was the most he could live. That man is alive to-day, and takes his mishap as coolly as if it were a corn or a colic. He is not out of danger, but neither is he wholly devoid of

"Now, the Christian insurgents on the heights above Malaxa are men of this type. They sleep out in the open, the intensely blue sea at their feet, and the dazzling, snow-capped mountains behind them. Their shelter is an olive tree, an inequality in the ground, a stone, the remains of a wall, anything that happens to be available. There they lie perdus day after day, straining their marvellous vision to catch sight of an in cautious Turk, and prepared to put a bullet through the smallest extent of his person which he may expose. They are all remarkably good This is characteristic of every Cretan, whatever his age or religion. From childhood enward they practise rifle shooting incessantly, and however poor, always manage to possess a rifle and ammunition. A Cretan would sell his immortal soul for a gun or a revolver, and would

steal them from his bosom friend without a pang of compunction. It is part of his nature, "The Moslems, who had been thus holding out at Malaxa, contrived to make known their pitiful plight to their friends and relatives in Canea, and the latter resolved to send them provisions. It was no easy feat to achieve. There were

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Christians on the heights, and, worse still, there were numerous Christians in three little villages below, just outside of Canea, the white houses of which contrasted very prettily with the graygreen foliage of the olive groves. All these vigilant eyes would surely see and these ever-wakeful ears must certainly hear some signs of the march of the relief party. The risk, however, had to be run. Six hundred stalwart Moslems, including regular soldiers and bloodthirsty-looking volunteers, set out accordingly in the dead of the night, and took the least frequented route to Malaxa. In due time they arrived at their destination without a mishap and delivered the acks of flour, the biscuits, oranges, and other victuals to their long-suffering friends, who could

carcely suppress their jubilation.
"It was broad daylight when the triumphant party, armed to the teeth, set out on their way home, carrying banners and flags, and visibly proud of their risky achievement. It was a de lightful morning, one of those southern insular mornings when the sweetly delicate scent of earliest spring is almost heard as softest music. Suddenly a flash of light was seen high up on the hill, followed by a sharp explosion, a faint eche, and silence. Another flash and explosion -yet another. Spiral columns of grayish-blue smoke ascended slowly from various points on the hills; the echo of the report was occasionally followed by a subdued moan or a piercing

shrick. The battle had begun. "It was difficult to say which side had the advantage. In numbers the Turks were doubtless superior, and, coming as they did from Canea, where there was no lack of victuals, they were in better fighting condition. If they had had to face an enemy in the open field they would have felt supremely happy. But there was nobody in particular for them to attack. They could very eldom see anything or anybody move, yet the bullets came raining about them. Under these circumstances their best and indeed only tactics was to get as much as possible under cover and to march as quickly as was feasible over the broken ground. This they accordingly did. But there was another thing which only Cretans would dream of doing-shooting at haphazard. The soldiers of every other nation and people take some thought of their ammunition, and, however badly they may shoot, generally see that they have a target to aim at. The Cretans disregard such presaic precautions. The general fact that the enemy is some about suffices, and they are ble of firing all day long at people who are either out of range of their guns or snugly sheltered behind stone walls. No Westerner has even a remote idea of the sad waste of powder and bullets which has characterized every one of the numerous Cretan insurrections. No doubt it is infinitely better from a humane point of view that ammunition only should be squandered and human life spared, but none the less it is practically tantamount to a wanton de-

one of the numerous Cretan Insurrections. No doubt it is infinitely better from a humanne point of view that ammunition only should be squandered and human life spared, but none the less it is practically tantamount to a wanton destruction of property.

"Thus the battle went slowly on. Here a shot would be fired, there another, then all at once a whole volley would be discharged into space, whereupon the smoke on the hills grew denser, the excitement of the inactive spectators waxed intenser, the fear of the villagers became more and more paralyzing. Hy 90 clock the Moslems had several wounded, and their party had not split up into two unequal bodies, one of which was considerably ahead of the other. The Christians evidently noticed this, and took their measures accordingly; concentrating their fire upon the smaller detachment, they finally rendered all advance impossible, and with a little knowledge of tacties, might have cut it to pieces. Bullets fiew about in all directions into and over the village, and I picked up some near the spot at which I stood. At last the hard-pressed Moslems, to the number of about 120, gave up the idea of regaining the city, and cautiously endeavored to get back to the garrison on the hill, which they finally did, with a loss turknown. The others kept on, marchine, firing, living low, and gradually nearing the Christian villages in the neighborhood of which I was standing.

"Toward moon, as the heat of the sun was making itself felt on the shadowless stretch of broken land belween the villages and the city, thickening turbaned swarms gathered in field corners and along theroad, their talk a shade less inaudible than silence, their gestures few but drastically significant, their looks provokingly ferceious. All their interest was centred in the outcome of their oreligiousts' march homeward. When at last the latter entered the district of the villages, i could hear numerous exclamations, such as 'Victory!' Victory!' Splendid!' and the cruele expression on the faces of these savage m

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rench Linen Tapestries—50 inches wide Extra Heavy Rep Cretonnes - value .83 New Twill Cretonnes—over 20 colorings Silk Warp Furniture Tapestries -value 1.65 Fine Silk Brocatels and Damasks-50 inch Figured Drapery Silks 31 inch Imported Colored Madras 50 inch Egyptian Yarn Cross Stripe Draperies Japanese Gold Crepes, were .1212 Fig'd and Coin Spot Muslins Ruffing to match---- 4 inches deep Fancy Combination Curtain Nets New Upholstery Fringes-6 luches wide

> SPECIAL NOTICE regarding

Another great offering of LADIES' UNDERWEAR!

We have just completed a purchase, amounting to many thousands of dollars, from a manufacturer who wanted to realize quickly The goods will be on sale Monday morning at Nine o'clock, but not having been assorted and examined at present writing, is is not possible to give prices and descriptions Stock comprises a great variety of Muslin and Cambric garments, all new, fresh, and of latest spring styles Prices will be less than usual wholesale cost Particulars will follow in Evening and Morning Papers !

Sale begins Monday, Nine & E.

sors, Sewing Silks.

6th Avenue, 19th to 20th Street. 6th Avenue, 19th to 20th Street.

regular 75c. quality, 45c